

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) Reinforcing device according to Claim ~~1~~ 3 wherein each of two ends of the carbon panel terminates in an end element.

3. (Previously amended) Reinforcing device for supporting structures comprising:

a carbon panel, at least one end of the carbon panel being split into at least two strips, and

an end element in which said at least one end terminates,

wherein the strips are inserted at least partially into retaining slots of the end element that are located wedgewise relative to one another.

4. (Currently amended) Reinforcing device for supporting structures comprising:

a carbon panel having ends, ~~at least one~~ each end of the carbon panel being split into at least two strips, and

~~an end element~~ elements in which ~~said at least one end terminates~~ the ends of the carbon panel terminate,

wherein ~~each end of the panel is split into~~ said strips are superimposed strips of approximately equal thickness.

5. (Previously amended) Reinforcing device according to Claim 3 wherein said retaining slots of the end element have a rough or corrugated surface.

6. (Previously amended) Reinforcing device according to Claim 3 wherein bores oriented transversely to the surface of the panel are located in the end element in the vicinity of said retaining slots.

7. (Currently amended) Reinforcing device for supporting structures comprising:

a carbon panel, at least one end of the carbon panel being split into at least two strips, and

an end element in which said at least one end terminates and having slots to receive the strips,

wherein the end element is a parallelepiped made of metal or plastic.

8. (Currently amended) Reinforcing device according to Claim 4 3 wherein the end element in the vicinity of the outlet of the carbon panel has at least one transverse reinforcement located transversely to an outlet direction.

9. (Currently amended) Reinforcing device according to Claim 1 3 wherein the end element has a threaded bore opposite the outlet of the carbon panel.

10. (Previously amended) Reinforcing device according to Claim 3 wherein the retaining slots are located wedgewise in the end element such that a lowest retaining slot is parallel to the outlet direction of the carbon panel and each of the other retaining slots is located fanwise with an increasing angle from the outlet opening.

11. (Currently amended) Method for reinforcing supporting elements with reinforcing devices comprising:

cutting carbon panels to an appropriate length,

separating or splitting each panel at at least one end into at least two strips of approximately the same thickness or width extending parallel to or at an acute angle with respect to each other,

bringing the at least one end into a connection with an end element to form an arrangement, and

gluing the arrangement to a tension side of a supporting element to be reinforced.

12. (Currently amended) Method for reinforcing supporting elements with reinforcing devices comprising:

cutting carbon panels to an appropriate length,

separating or splitting each panel at at least one end into at least two strips of approximately the same thickness or width,

bringing the at least one end into a connection with an end element to form an arrangement, and

gluing the arrangement to a tension side of a supporting element to be reinforced,

wherein the strips of approximately the same thickness or width are introduced into separate retaining slots of the end element which are arranged fanwise with respect to one another and glued in place or soaked with an adhesive.

13. (Currently amended) Method for reinforcing supporting elements with reinforcing devices comprising:

cutting carbon panels to an appropriate length,

separating or splitting each panel at at least one end into at least two strips of approximately the same thickness or width,

bringing the at least one end into a connection with an end element to form an arrangement, and

gluing the arrangement to a tension side of a supporting element to be reinforced,

wherein each of the ends of the carbon panels is separated or split into three strips and the arrangement, before gluing to the supporting element, is pretensioned relative to the latter by clamping means and then glued in a pretensioned state to the supporting element.

14. (Currently amended) Method according to Claim 11 wherein each of the carbon panels is split in a fiber direction.

15. (Previously amended) Reinforcing device according to Claim 8, wherein the at least one transverse reinforcement is a threaded rod.

16. (Canceled)